

WI-187
Captain Marcellus Jones House
Whitehaven
Private

c. 1811-12

Situated on the corner of River and Church streets in the center of Whitehaven, the Captain Marcellus Jones house is a prominent two-story, three-bay frame dwelling. Dated by chain of title research to 1811-12, the side hall/double-pile structure stands out as a well-developed and well-built example of early nineteenth century Federal domestic architecture. Raised on a high common bond brick foundation, the main block is distinguished by a pair of brick chimneys that rise through the gable end and ovolo molded surrounds that frame the window openings. A layer of aluminum siding covers the main block as well as a two-story rear wing which dates from the mid nineteenth century. The interior boasts finely executed examples of Federal woodwork.

Construction of this prominent frame house is dated to 1811-12 during the short ownership of Lazarus Horsey, who acquired this waterfront lot in August 1811 from George Robertson. Transferred for \$300, the lot was improved within the year by Lazarus Horsey, who sold the property the following August for \$1800. The substantial increase in value and the relatively large transfer price in 1812 convincingly document the construction of the Federal dwelling. Matilda Lucas Hyland purchased the property in 1812, but a year later her executor sold the house and lot to Marcellus Jones for \$1700. Captain Marcellus Jones (1796-1846) married Mary Hughes (1792-1863) in January 1815, and the couple evidently resided in the house until the mid-nineteenth century. Four years following Captain Jones's death in 1846, Mary Hughes Jones, aged 57, is grouped in

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the 1850 U. S. census with Hezekiah W. C. Jones, a 26-year old sailor, along with Thomas Bell, aged 16, and Mary Porter, aged 60.

However, by the mid 1850s the property was out of Jones family control since it was sold by George R. Dennis to George Price in February 1855. In addition to the house and lot the plantation known as "Bolton" was included in the transfer. A deed between Dennis and Price was not recorded due to outstanding debts owed on the property. With George Price's death the mortgaged lands were involved in a Chancery Court case in order to reach an equitable settlement of the estate.

John W. Crisfield, the trustee in the court case, was empowered to sell the Price property in "White Haven" at auction. On July 24, 1867, the house and lot were sold to Charles T. Marshall. The property remained in Marshall family hands for a few years until Charles Marshall's death, after which his wife Priscilla sold the house and lot in 1874.

The corner lot, which extended back to the county road and contained one and three-quarters of an acre, was subdivided during the late nineteenth century in order to provide building lots for new houses along what was then known as Locust Street. One of the long-time owners of the house and lot was the Dolbey (also Dolby) family, who first acquired interest in the property in 1874. On December 30, 1889, William H. Dolbey purchased the old Jones-Price house and maintained ownership until his death in 1945 when the property was passed to his wife Mildred W. Dolbey, who retained title to the house and lot for another seven years.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: DORSZ HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-187

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
- 2) Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
Rural Agrarian Intensification
1680-1815
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-187

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic CAPTAIN MARCELLUS JONES HOUSE, LAZARUS HORSEY HOUSE

and/or common DORSZ HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 23812 River Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Whitehaven ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Corilla B. Dorsz

street & number 3820 Ingomar Street, N.W. telephone no.:

city, town Washington, D. C. state and zip code 20015

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 582 Map 65

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 318 P. 32

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-187

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dorsz house, historically known as the Captain Marcellus Jones house, stands on the northeast corner of the intersection of River and Church streets in the center of Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story side hall/double-pile frame dwelling faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Dated to 1811-12, the two-story, three-bay, double-pile main house is supported on a raised common bond brick foundation, and the exterior is uniformly sheathed with aluminum siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the early nineteenth century main block is a mid nineteenth two-story service wing. A rusticated concrete block wall extends across the front of the lot along River Street.

The south (main) facade is a three-bay elevation partially covered by a Tuscan columned front porch that shelters the first floor and extends around the east gable end as well. The front wall of the three-course common bond foundation is pierced by grilled cellar windows with diamond cross-sectioned bars. Alternate bars are iron in contrast to wood. The main entrance to the house is located in the west end bay and it is sheltered by the Tuscan columned porch, which has been enclosed. Single-pane sash fill the first floor window openings, and three single-pane sash windows light the second floor. The window openings are framed with an ovolo molded backband.

The west gable end of the main block has a symmetrical fenestration with two single-pane sash windows lighting the first and second floors. Ovolo molded backbands trim the window surrounds, which have a beaded inside edge as well. A large cellar opening pierces the foundation wall, and a vertical board door provides access. Piercing the upper gable end is a six-over-six sash window. The gable end is finished with a slightly extended eave.

The east gable end is sheltered on the first floor by the Tuscan columned porch, which shelters single-pane sash windows on the first floor. Single-pane sash windows light the second floor as well and each window opening is trimmed with an ovolo backband. Rising through the gable end is a pair of interior brick chimney stacks.

The north (rear) wall is partially covered by the two-story, two-bay by one-room service wing, which is pierced by two-over-two sash windows. An interior end brick stove chimney rises through the gable end. Extending northward from the service wing is a low single-story addition that appears to connect a small frame outbuilding. A single-story garage is also located on the lot.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-187

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Situated on the corner of River and Church streets in the center of Whitehaven, the Captain Marcellus Jones house is a prominent two-story, three-bay frame dwelling. Dated by chain of title research to 1811-12, the side hall/double-pile structure stands out as a well-developed and well-built example of early nineteenth century Federal domestic architecture. Raised on a high common bond brick foundation, the main block is distinguished by a pair of brick chimneys that rise through the gable end and ovolo molded surrounds that frame the window openings. A layer of aluminum siding covers the main block as well as a two-story rear wing which dates from the mid nineteenth century. The interior boasts finely executed examples of Federal woodwork.

Construction of this prominent frame house is dated to 1811-12 during the short ownership of Lazarus Horsey, who acquired this waterfront lot in August 1811 from George Robertson. (Somerset Land Record, U/174) Transferred for \$300, the lot was improved within the year by Lazarus Horsey, who sold the property the following August for \$1800. (Somerset Land Record, U/313) The substantial increase in value and the relatively large transfer price in 1812 convincingly document the construction of the Federal dwelling. Matilda Lucas Hyland purchased the property in 1812, but a year later her executor sold the house and lot to Marcellus Jones for \$1700. (Somerset Land Record, JP 1/246) Captain Marcellus Jones (1796-1846) married Mary Hughes (1792-1863) in January 1815, and the couple evidently resided in the house until the mid-nineteenth century. Four years following Captain Jones's death in 1846, Mary Hughes Jones, aged 57, is grouped in the 1850 U. S. census with Hezekiah W. C. Jones, a 26-year old sailor, along with Thomas Bell, aged 16, and Mary Porter, aged 60.

However, by the mid 1850s the property was out of Jones family control since it was sold by George R. Dennis to George Price in February 1855. In addition to the house and lot the plantation known as "Bolton" was included in the transfer. A deed between Dennis and Price was not recorded due to outstanding debts owed on the property. With George Price's death the mortgaged lands were involved in a Chancery Court case in order to reach an equitable settlement of the estate. (Somerset Chancery Case-Sarah R. Price vs. Georgeanna Price)

(continued)

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Captain Marcellus Jones House

John W. Crisfield, the trustee in the court case, was empowered to sell the Price property in "White Haven" at auction. On July 24, 1867, the house and lot were sold to Charles T. Marshall. (Somerset Land Record, LW 10/655) The property remained in Marshall family hands for a few years until Charles Marshall's death, after which his wife Priscilla sold the house and lot in 1874. (Wicomico Land Record, SPT 1/277)

The corner lot, which extended back to the county road and contained one and three-quarters of an acre, was subdivided during the late nineteenth century in order to provide building lots for new house along what was then known as Locust Street. One of the long-time owners of the house and lot was the Dolbey (also Dolby) family, who first acquired interest in the property in 1874. (Wicomico Land Record, SPT 1/277) On December 30, 1889, William H. Dolbey purchased the old Jones-Price house and maintained ownership until his death in 1945 when the property was passed to his wife Mildred W. Dolbey, who retained title to the house and lot for another seven years. (Wicomico Land Record, JWS 342/183)

WI-187
Captain Marcellus Jones House
23812 River Street
Whitehaven, Maryland
Chain of title

582/318 C. Melvin Caddell
 Adele Dolbey Caddell

to

4/16/1964 Edmund J. Dorsz
 Corilla B. Dorsz

JWTS 342/183 Mildred W. Dolbey

to

7/7/1952 C. Melvin Caddell
 Adele Dolbey Caddell

FMS 6/132 William K. Leatherbury
 Lillian M. Leatherbury

to

12/30/1889 William H. Dolbey
 and which was conveyed to the said Mildred
 W. Dolbey by the said William H. Dolbey by
 the third item of a deed dated 12/19/1945,
 JWTS 273/307 \$1050.00

SPT 4/260 Stephen W. Dolbey
 Henrietta Dolbey

to

8/17/1881 William K. Leatherbury
 \$800.00 2 acres
 all that lot of ground lying between the lot
 of Captain Zacchius Taylor on the east and
 the lot of Mrs. Dolly Palmer on the west the
 same being situated in the village of White
 Haven on the north side of the Wicomico River

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Captain Marcellus Jones House
Chain of title continued

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SPT 1/277

Priscilla V. Marshall
(whereas Charles T. Marshall deceased in
his last will and testament authorized and
empowered his wife the said Priscilla V.
Marshall to sell and convey his real estate
recorded in SCL 5/289)

to

11/2/1874

Noah J. Tilghman, George H. Robertson,
John W. Wingate, Ware Wainright, Joseph S.
Webster, Ernest Riall, Stephen W. Dolbey

all that house and lot in the town of
White Haven whereon Elias W. Taylor now
resides and which is more fully described
by survey in a plat marked no. 3 in the
proceedings in No. 435 Chancery Docket of
Somerset County

Somerset County
Land Record
LW 10/655

John W. Crisfield, Trustee

to

7/24/1867

Charles T. Marshall

purchased by auction as a result of Chancery
case to settle an equity case between Sarah
R. Price, complainant and Georgeanna Price
Defendant....to be sold the real estate of
George Price, deceased....

Somerset County
Land Record
LW 10/318-19

George R. Dennis, Frederick County

to

2/20/1867

John W. Crisfield,

Whereas the said George R. Dennis on or
about the 23rd of February 1855 sold to
George Price, late of Somerset County,
deceased all that farm in Somerset County
called Bolton....and also the house and lot

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Captain Marcellus Jones House
Chain of title continued

Page 3

in the village of White Haven which
formerly belonged to Marcellus Jones and
the said George Price agreed to pay
for the said land....

Somerset County
Land Record
JP 1/246

Samuel Holbrook, Executor of Matilda
L. Hyland

to

8/18/1813

Marcellus Jones

\$1700 ...a certain lott of ground situate
being and lying in Somerset County
on the north side of Wicomico River
at a place formerly called the Lower
ferry now known by the name of White
Haven it being a lott of ground lately
possessed adn occupied by the said
Matilda L. Hyland deceased adjoining
a lott of ground formerly sold to
George Aires and by said Aires to
Thomas Jones and by him transferred to
Alexander Stewart...

Somerset County
Land Record
10/5/1813

Lazarus Horsey

to

10/5/1813

Marcellus Jones

\$200 a certain lott of ground....on the
north side of Wicomico River at a
place called the Lower ferry now
known by the name of White Haven, it
being a lott of ground lately possessed
by said Lazarus Horsey adjoining a lot
of ground formerly sold to George Aires
and by the said Aires to Thomas Jones
and by him transferred to Alexander

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Captain Marcellus Jones House
Chain of title continued

Page 4

Stewart...Beginning at the westernmost side of the last described lott at the corner of the Garden lately possessed and occupied by Matilda L. Hyland, and sold by Samuel Holbrook, exec. of the said Matilda L. Hyland to the above named Marcellus Jones and running thence with the back line of said garden for the breadth ninety feet and nine inches from thence north eleven degrees west by and with the divisional line as now enclosed by George Robertson lott continuing with the said fence until it intersects the county road that leads to the ferry wharf, and by and with the said road until it intersects a line of the aforesaid Lott of Ground that belonged to Alexander Stewart

Somerset County
Land Record
U/313

Lazarus Horsey

to

8/8/1812

Matilda Lucus Hyland

\$1800.00

a house and lott situated and lying in Somerset County on Wicomico on the north side of said river, formerly called the Lower ferry, now known and distinguished by the name of White Haven it being a house lott sold by George Robertson to said Lazarus Horsey

Somerset County
Land Record
U/174

George Robertson

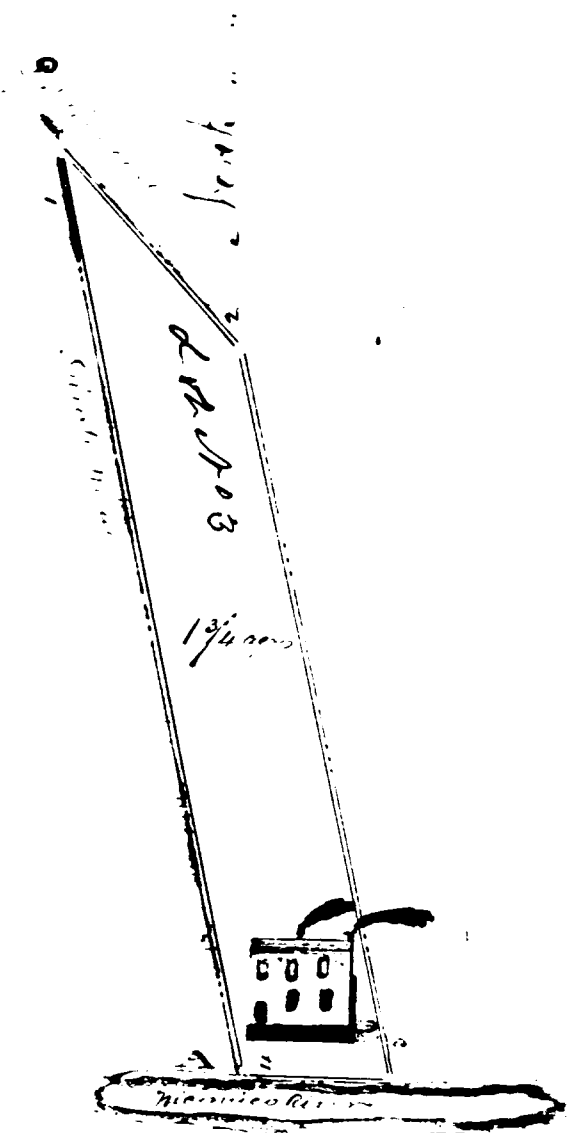
to

8/10/1811

Lazarus Horsey
\$300.00

Captain Marcellus Jones (1796-1846) married Mary Hughes
in January 1815

Subsided by a dock
10 Sirens to an inch }



The above represents the lot which is situated
at the end of the wharf at White Plains. Contains an area
for the said lot beginning at low water mark opposite the end of the
wharf thence running by and with the line

N 13° 30' " " " " W 48 1/2° perches thence

S 42° " " " " E 13 7/8 " " "

S 12° 30' " " " " E 38 1/2° " to the end of the wharf thence
by and with said wharf to the beginning containing one and three
quarter acres of land

E. C. Smith Survey
Oct 30th 1865

Georgia Price.

Be Chairman on the Circuit Court for Somerset County.

To the Honorable the Court within name

The report of John W. Cusfield Trustee appointed by the decree in this cause to make sale of the Real Estate on the proceedings in the cause mentioned explicitly states: That having given bond for the discharge of his duties as prescribed by the decree, he caused the premises to be surveyed, and he hired with whom as part of his reports two plats and certificates made by L. C. Donohoe a competent Surveyor employed by the subscriber for the purpose: That having notice as prescribed by the decree of the time place manner and terms of sale by advertisements printed in the Somerset Herald a newspaper printed in Somerset County, and by hand bills extensively circulated in the said County and posted at the Court House door, Sharp Town, and other public places in the said County, he did according to the said notice on the 18th day of November 1865, at the Store of Wm. Wainright in the

The said real estate is described in the said plat
for sale at public sale; at which time
and place Charles T. Marshall being
the highest and best bidder for lots Nos
1 & 2, the first containing $142\frac{3}{4}$ acres, the second
containing $30\frac{3}{8}$ acres as described in the plat Nos 1 & 2
both of which constituting one farm were sold
together, the said Charles T. Marshall became
the purchaser thereof at and for the sum of
Six Thousand Two Hundred Dollars; and
the said Charles T. Marshall being also at the
same time and place, the highest and best bidder
for the House & lot in White Haven, described
at lot No 3 in plot No 3, became the purchaser
thereof at and for the sum of Eleven Hundred
Dollars; And the said Charles T. Marshall
has since complied with the terms of sale.
All which is respectfully submitted.

Interposed

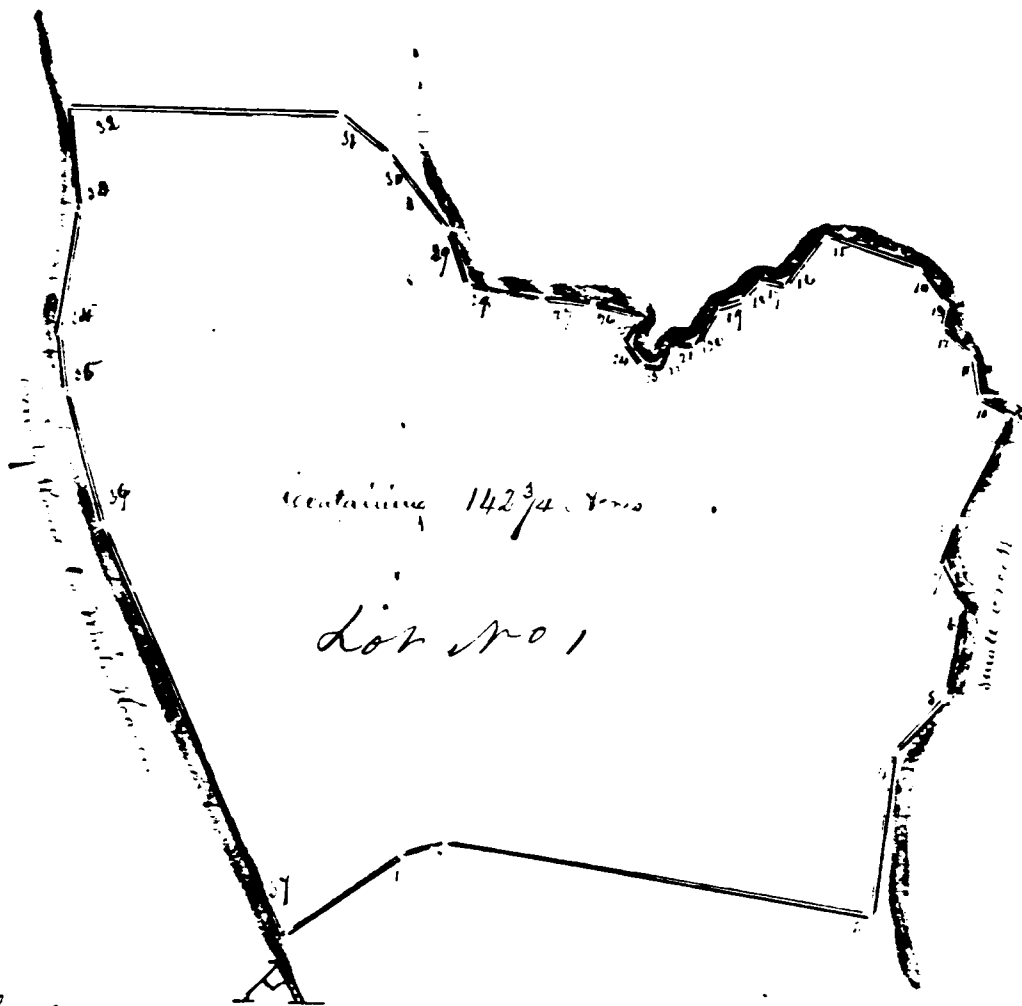
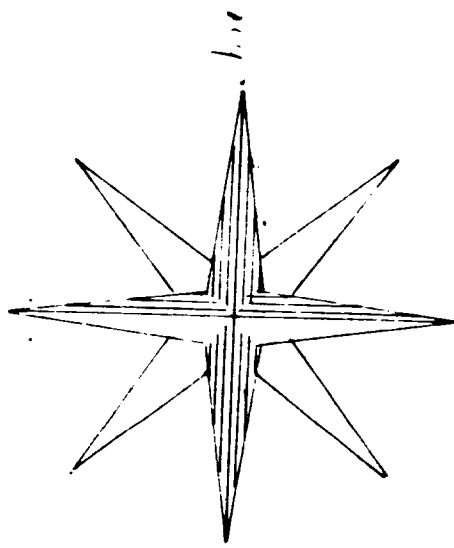
Justice

State of Vermont Land Office

Survey of the land and distance in the town of

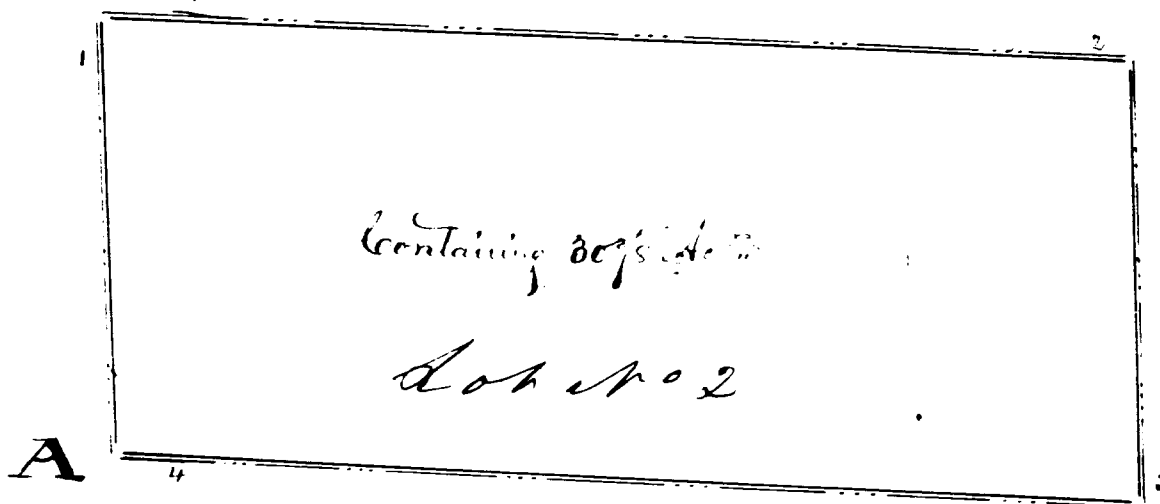
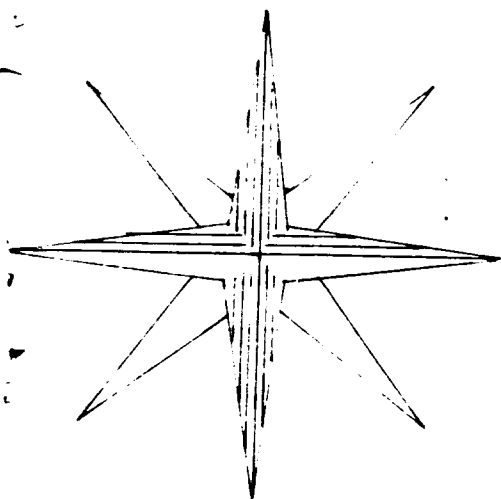
in the county of the State of Vermont, beginning at the south west corner of the said land on by the side of the State Road leading to White Hall, thence running the following course to wit

1	S 33° 30' " " " " E 29' "	26	S 76' " " " " N 11' "
2	S 73' " " " " " E 10' "	27	S 85° 30' " " " " N 11' "
3	S 81° 30' " " " " " E 9' "	28	S 81' " " " " " N 16' "
4	S 5' " " " " " " E 33' "	29	S 17' " " " " " N 12' "
5	S 40' " " " " " " E 16' "	30	S 39' " " " " " N 20' "
6	S 5' " " " " " " E 19' "	31	S 53' " " " " " N 13' "
7	S 30° 30' " " " " " N 10' "	32	S 89' " " " " " N 85' "
8	S 50' " " " " " " E 10' "	33	S 7' " " " " " " E 30' "
9	S 34' " " " " " " E 24' "	34	S 7' " " " " " " N 36' "
10	S 88° 30' " " " " " N 6 3/4' "	35	S 6' " " " " " " E 15' "
11	S 12' " " " " " " N 9' "	36	S 18' " " " " " " E 35' "
12	S 24' " " " " " " N 8' "	37	S 21' " " " " " " E 92' " to
13	S 15' " " " " " " E 43' "	(the beginning containing 142 3/4	
14	S 29° 30' " " " " " N 10' "	acres of land	
15	S 73' " " " " " " N 30' "		
16	S 27' " " " " " " N 13' "		
17	S 80' " " " " " " N 5' "		
18	S 43° 30' " " " " " N 4' "		
19	S 66' " " " " " " N 6' "		
20	S 27' " " " " " " N 8' "		
21	S 88° 30' " " " " " N 4' "		
22	S 19' " " " " " " N 5' "		
23	S 1' " " " " " " N 30' "		



Laid down by a beater
40 ft to an inch }

W. L. Fincho, Surveyor
Oct 30th 1865

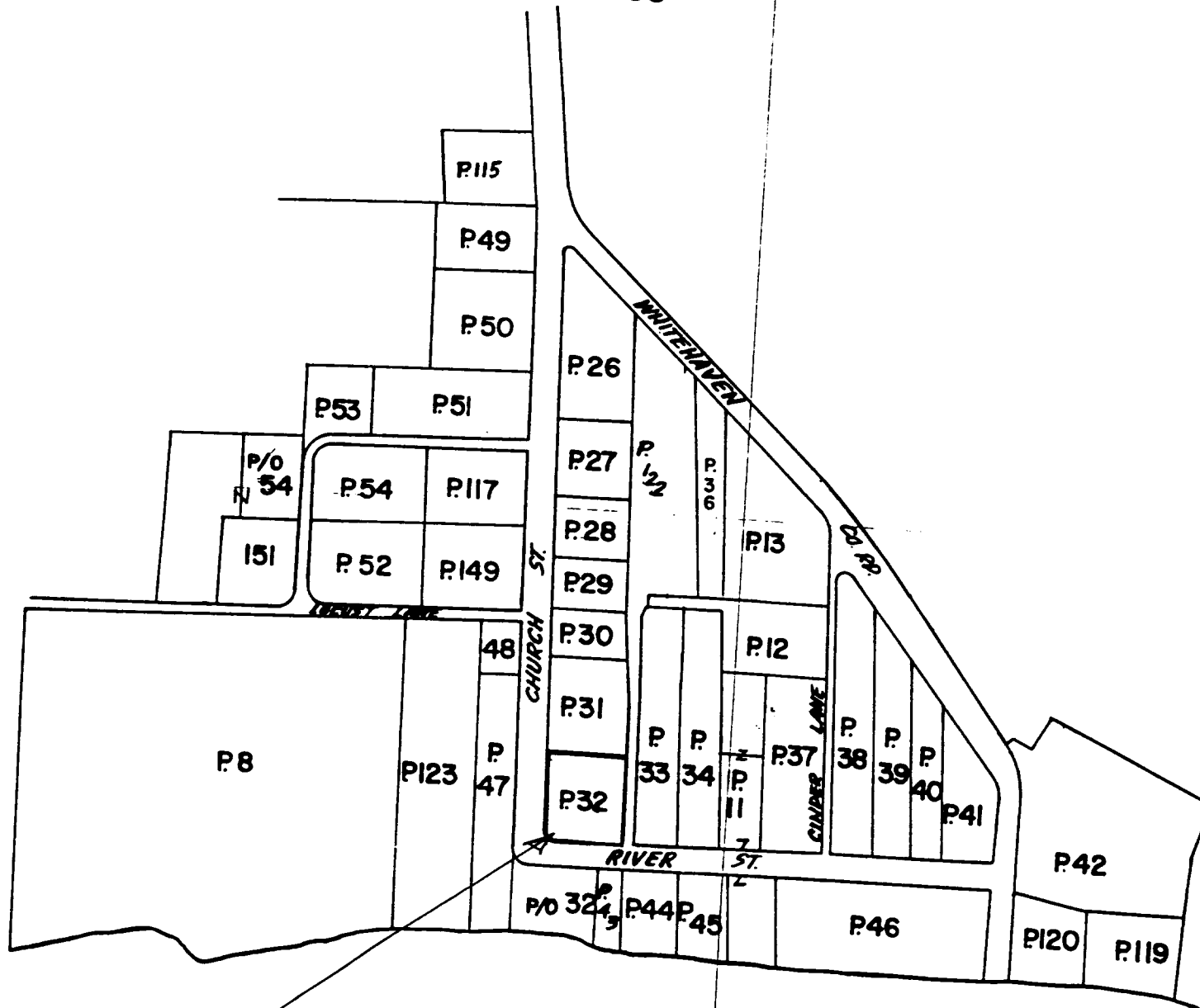


— Said skull by a Sealing
 26 inches to an inch }

L. C. Archer Surgeon
 Oct 30th 1865

WHITEHAVEN

SCALE 1"=200'



WI-187
CAPTAIN MARCELLUS JONES HOUSE
Wicomico County Tax Map 65
Parcel 32

